

SHA'AR ZAHAV

FORWARD

שער זהב

5739 אייר MAY 1979

Dear Congregants,

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be in a new home effective Friday May 4, 1979. Our present home has been purchased by the San Francisco Women's Group. The space we were using will be renovated for office space.

We will now be meeting at the
Jewish Community Center
3200 California Street at Presido
San Francisco, California

Our services will begin promptly at 8:00 PM to be followed by an Oneg Shabbat. We look forward to seeing and meeting you.

Best wishes,

Bob Ehrenberg

Bob Ehrenberg
Chairperson
Building Committee

from where i stand

From time to time I feel like Thurber's horseman, who mounts his horse and rides off in all directions at once. I have found that Sha'ar Zahav has so many things going on all at the same time, and so many things which ought to be going on, that it is hard to know which to focus on first. With our impending move from Dovre Hall, our peripatetic congregation will be making its temporary home in its sixth location. This should be a focus of our attention for action in the very near future.

While our Seder was a huge success, due to the monumental efforts of Bill Goldstein and Henry Rabinowitz and their respective Oneg and Ritual Committees, we want to see the number of people whom we can serve continue to rise. We need a willing and capable person to chair our membership committee, realizing as we do that membership is the key to our survival. Our obligation is not simply to serve those who have already joined us, but also to reach out to those who would desire what we can offer to them, but who don't know who or what we are.

We are in the midst of a large Jewish gay and lesbian community, and we are reaching only a minuscule percentage of them. Our attention needs to be focused there as well.

There are also several other projects which are being undertaken: the building of a portable ark for our Sefer Torah, under the direction of Ellis Jacobs; the creation of a complete siddur for Shabbat and Festivals, under the watchful eyes of Henry Rabinowitz; an education program in its first stages, with Michael Zimmerman at its helm. Michael tells me that we not only need instructors -- we need students as well.

And I raise the question of two other of my concerns: Are we at the point yet where we should be organizing a religious school for the children in our congregation? And do we have a need for organized rap groups for special interest subjects and folks like Gay Parents or Jewish Parents of Gays? Should we have our own rap group about coming out? Should we organize men's and women's consciousness raising groups within our congregation. I am in favor of all of the above, and would be inclined to support the creation of each one. And I would like to see us continue our Oneg Speaker's programs, under Sam Thal's leadership, so that we can stay "plugged in" to many of our community resources. Our fund-raising efforts are beginning to get organized above and beyond the garage sale and fair/booth categories, with Tom Rothgiesser

shouldering the responsibility for that work. Our search for a permanent home is being carried out with seriousness and realism by Bob Ehrenberg, in the knowledge that unless and until we can produce evidence of capital, our search may well be pointless. Rob Montague has launched a multi-pronged outreach program, with special emphasis on the Jewish community, and with some startlingly good results. And, if you are reading this, then Ellis Jacobs has done his usual good job on the newsletter.

I welcome Steven Fritsch Rudser as our new congregational Recorder, and John Brown as our new ad hoc Publicity Committee chair.

Now, while all this may sound terribly busy and even remotely exciting, it will all amount to nothing unless we begin to come to grips with some very profound questions. First, who's paying for this? Obviously, we are. But in order to keep this ship afloat, either we're going to have to increase our income by raising recommended dues, or we're going to have to do it by increasing the number of dues-paying members. To my way of thinking, the latter choice is preferable. And you can help by remembering to tell your friends.

Second, while we're not turning away money, neither are we turning away people who are interested in creating new programs or increasing the activity in the already-existing ones. No committee in this synagogue has enough active members. Even if you are not well-versed in the goings-on of a given committee, take the time to learn more about it.

When all the shouting is done, you are the synagogue. To the extent that you are actively involved, we will have and be a healthy synagogue. We do not simply request your life-blood at Sha'ar Zahav; we require it. Without it we die, and there are far too many folks around here who have found it to be a warm re-entry way into liberal Judaism to even think of not meeting our obligations to them. We must be the best of our kind around here, and with your help וְרֹצֶה הַשָּׁמֶן אָם, we can.

. Allen Bennett

treasurer's report

I've got some good news and I've got some bad news... first, the good news;

For the last year or so, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has been able to meet its financial obligations in full and on time. Consequently, we have established an excellent reputation with the people with whom we've done buisness. Collection of dues pledges has gone very well with almost 65% of the total annual pledges having already been met. To all of you members who have kept your dues current, the Synagogue heartily thanks you.

Now the not so good news. As your wizard-like mathematical mind no doubt already computed, only 35% of the annual dues pledges remain outstanding. And pledges are not formally renewed until Rosh Hashana! What's a synagogue to do?

The following is brought to you by the Society of concerned Hebrews Not Overly Rich (S.C.H.N.O.R.):

If you have fulfilled your annual dues pledge, please consider making an additional tax-deductable contribution in the near future. And for those of you making dues contributions on a periodic basis, please continue doing so and even consider accelerating your payments, as our expenses continue to rise.

NOTES & REMINDERS:

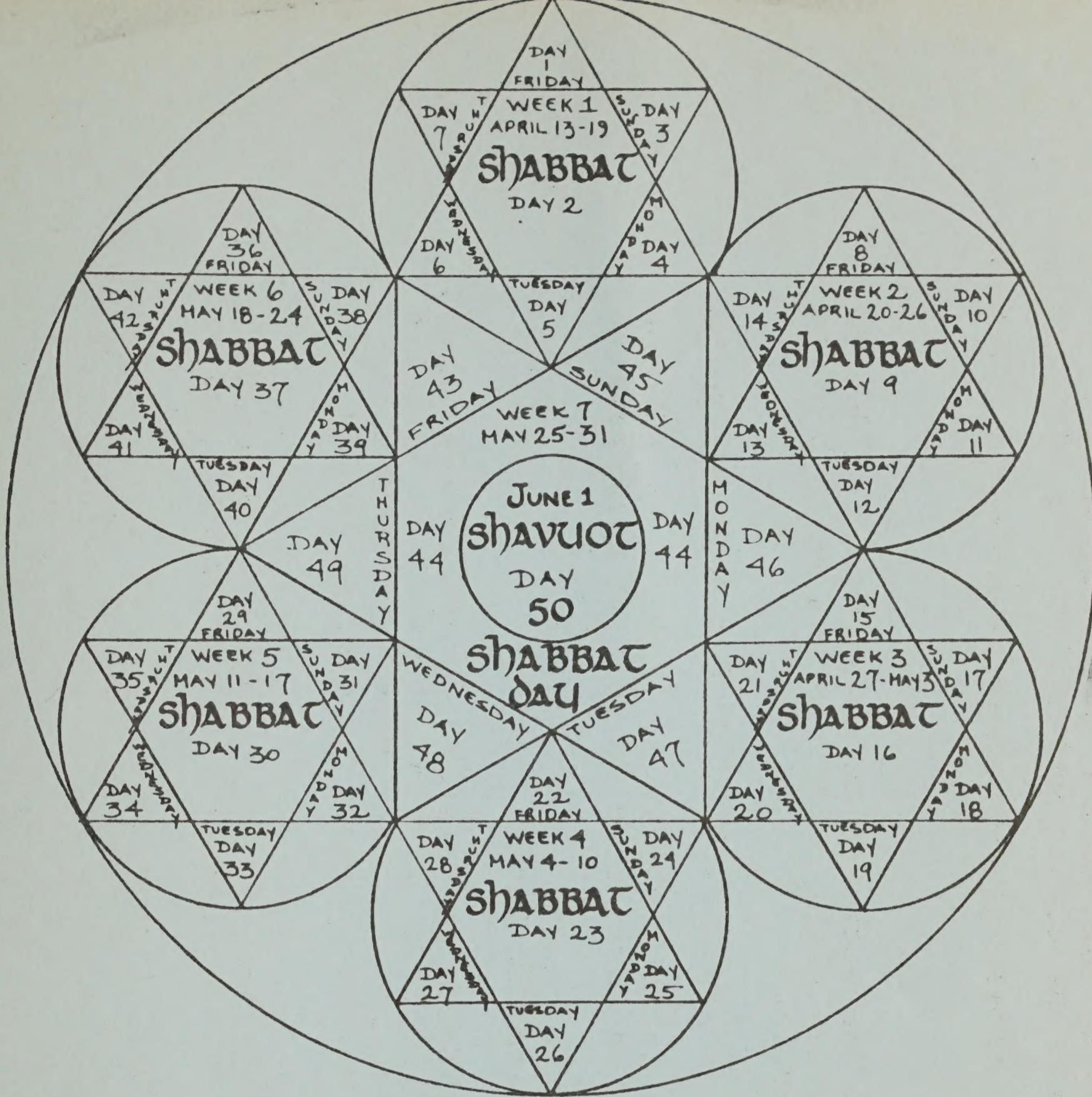
-- You don't have to be a member to make a contribution. If you enjoy reading the Newsletter, let us know in a tangible way.

-- Membership information can be obtained at Shabbat services, or by mail request.

-- Our efforts to break even on the Seder were unsuccessful. We fell short by approximately \$250.00.

Thank you and Shalom,
Ron Lezell

Ron



EACH DAY AFTER MEDITATING, RECITING THE BLESSING, COUNTING THE OMER, AND RECITING A PSALM, YOU MAY WANT TO COLOR IN THE NEW DAY. COLOR SHABBAT BEFORE IT BEGINS OR AFTER HAVDALAH.

The FORWARD needs your articles. If you would like to write a periodic column or just a single article of general interest to the congregation for publication in the FORWARD, please contact me. I can be reached at home 552-6976, or see me at services. The FORWARD and the congregation will be most appreciative.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE BULLETIN

In response to your requests, the Education Committee has established the following courses for April and May. To register, just fill out the coupon and mail to the address shown.

SURVIVAL HEBREW

This beginners' class concentrates on an overview of Hebrew language, the main Friday night blessings and Sabbath songs, and common Hebrew greetings.

WHEN: Monday, April 16th at 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. and following 7 Mondays.

WHERE: 105 Belvedere, in San Francisco. TEACHER: Ori Sherman.
COST: \$32.00 payable in advance, plus cost of materials.
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JEWISH AND GAY: Rapping the Rabbis

In this workshop we examine the history of Jewish Homophobia from Leviticus to contemporary rabbinical writings, discuss ways to reinterpret our legal and cultural tradition, and analyse the alternative approaches for relating to the total Jewish community.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 25th and following three Wednesdays.
WHERE: 354 Coleridge in San Francisco. FACILITATOR: Mike Zimmerman.

COST: None, except cost of materials.
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COOKING THE CLASSICS

In this one-day cooking workshop, each participant agrees to be responsible for demonstrating or describing the preparation of a Jewish cuisine classic to be followed by a banquet of the foods prepared. Suggestions are:

WHEN: Sunday, May 13 from 11-5

WHERE : Any volunteers

COST: Each participant pays for his or her own materials.

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A JOG

This is a 2-hour jogging experience which includes the opportunity to exchange jogging experience with others, warm-up exercises, and 1-3 mile jog. Beginners as well as more advanced joggers of both sexes are heartily invited.

WHEN: Sunday, May 27th from 10-12.

WHERE: Stow Lake at Golden Gate Park. FACILITATOR: Ellis

Jacobs. COST: None

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SIGN ME UP FOR THE FOLLOWING COURSES: () A JOG (no cost)

() Survival Hebrew () Jewish and Gay () Cooking the Classics. My dish is

The cost and/or registration fee () is enclosed () will be paid at the first class.

NAME

ADDRESS

Member Yes No

Mail to: Education Committee 354 Coleridge St. San Francisco, 94110

* NOTE: Non-members are asked to pay a registration fee of \$1 for any class which meets 4 times or less and registration fee of \$2 for all others.

THIS YEAR IN YERUSHALAYIM!

Being one of the lucky few who can afford to go to this years conference in Eretz Israel, I thought that I would find a little information about the Kibbutz where the conference is going to be held.

Kibbutz Ma'ale Ha-Hamishah is located 13 kilometers west of Yerushalayim (8mi.) in the Judean Hills of the old Jerusalem Corridor smack dab on the pre-67' "Green Line," of the liberated territory of Samaria. Surrounded by beautiful reforested land the Kibbutz was founded in 1934 and settled in 1938. The name - Ma'ale Ha-Hamishah means "Ascent of the Five," so named because soon after foundation five members were murdered by Arab Terrorists in an ambush.

During the war of independence the Kibbutz fought off many attacks of the Arab Legion, the best of the Arab armies which were under the command of British officers. The Kibbutz is a member of the Ichud (Ichud Ha Kevutzot Ve Ha Kibburzim Union of Collective Settlements), which is the most liberal of the Kibbutz movements and politically alines itself with MAPAI - Israel Labour Party.

The Kibbutz has vineyards, dairy cattle, and a Kibbutz Inn, which is where we will be staying. Last but not least it has a public swimming pool which will be nice during those hot (avg. 20-30°C., 68-88°F) July afternoons. After the conference there will be an optional 8 day bus tour.

reminder

Just a reminder, if you have recently moved or, more importantly, are planning to move, please send a change of address card to our Congregation at P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco 94101 right away. Otherwise it costs us 25¢ to get your change of address from the Post Office.

jogging

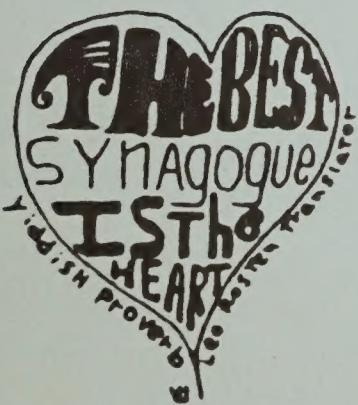
Sunday May 27, will be our next jogging event. Last month's event set a record for participation. Lets do even better this month. A nice easy jog around Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park. Meet at the boathouse at 10:00 A.M.

Ron Lezell
Ellis Jacobs

JEWISH COMMUNITIES THE WORLD OVER

With the dawn of a new era of peace between Israel and Egypt, the first Jewish visitors to Cairo in many years will soon be exploring such sites as the 12th century Ben Ezra Synagogue in the heart of this ancient city. The Jewish community of Egypt has its origins in Biblical times, and Jews have lived in the Cairo area since the Arabs founded the old city of Fostat in the 7th century. While Cairo never became the great center of Jewish life that its neighbor Alexandria did, the city did become an active community, and for a time in the 12th century was the home of the great philosopher Maimonides. In the Middle Ages, Egypt became the major scene of the controversy between the Rabbanites, the mainstream of Jewry who accepted the authority of the Talmud, and the Karaites, a fundamentalist sect who rejected later interpretations of the Bible. Karaite synagogues flourished in the city well into modern times.

In the early 20th century, with the emergence of Egypt as a modern nation, the Jewish community greatly increased with the settlement of Sephardic merchants and business from other Arab countries, who made important contributions to the civic and cultural life of the city. By 1947, there were 42,000 Jews in the metropolis - but with the outbreak of hostilities and the birth of the State of Israel, the tensions and conflicts led to a steady emigration, and today only about 350 poor and elderly Jews still live in the city. However, now that peace has come, it will be interesting to see whether a new generation will once again return to this historic center of Jewish life.



donations

If you would like to donate to the congregation in honor of an event (a new residence, car, etc) or a person (a new partner, etc) or in the memory of someone, such contribution will be graciously accepted by Sha'ar Zahav. Contribution in any amount (\$2.00 minimum) will be most welcome. If you would like your contribution not acknowledged in the FORWARD, please note that on your check.

films

The following films will be shown on the Berkeley Campus. Please note different starting times, auditoriums, and donations.

May 12

POURQUOI ISRAEL?
155 Dwinelle, 8:40 pm
Donation: \$2.50 general
 1.50 students and seniors

May 19

OPERATION THUNDERBOLT
Wheeler Auditorium, 9:00 pm
Donation: \$3.00 general
 2.00 students and seniors

June 2

I LOVE YOU ROSA
155 Dwinelle, 9:15 pm
Donation: \$2.50 general
 1.50 students and seniors

SPONSORED BY:

ISRAELI STUDENTS ORGANIZATION
ISRAEL ACTION COMMITTEE
JEWISH STUDENTS BOARD
JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION

oneg

Apr 27	David Custead
May 04	Stan Strauss, in honor of his late daughters' birthday, May 30.
May 11	Barbara in honor of her late ex-lover.
May 18	Jordan Lee, in honor of the prophet Jeremiah, also by Tony Moore, in honor of his birthday on May 28.

Bill Goldstein would like to thank all the members of the Oneg committee and members and guests of the congregation for the work they did on the Seder last month.

Onegs are a joy, for not only do they honor someone else or allow everyone to share in your special joy, they also add extra sweetness to the Shabbat. So why not sponsor an oneg. They are inexpensive. Just call Bill Goldstein 552-5573 or see him at services.

We work against injustice and see gains but essentially it'll be with us for a long time. Other things might as well be thought of. There is no angel especially assigned to look after gays. There's Eisheth Zenumim, "the woman of whoredom," the angel of prostitutes. Aba is concerned with human sexuality--who isn't?--Kasdaye with abortion. Tipheretiel is in charge of beauty, Spugliguel handles spring. The names of the angels of lust and luxury, regrettably, are unknown. Authorities in the 14th century stated the angelic population was 301,655,722. With that quantity there ought to be at least one for us. Any idea on its name, etc., as well as its whereabouts?

calendar of events

- May 4 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
 Torah portion, Aharei Mot - Kedoshim, Lev.,
 16:1 - 20:27 Prophetic reading, Amos 9:7-15.
- May 6 The Haight Street Fair
- May 11 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
 Torah portion, Emor, Lev. 21:1 - 24:23.
 Prophetic reading, Ezekiel 44:15-31.
- May 18 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
 Torah portion, Be-har - Be-Hukkotai, Lev.
 25:1-27:34, Prophetic reading, Jeremiah
 16:19-17:14.
- May 20 Angel Island Picnic.
- May 25 Evening Services 8:00p.m.
 Torah portion, Be-Midbar, Num 1:1-4:20.
 Special prophetic reading, I Samuel 20:18-
 20:42.
- June 1 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
 Second Day of Shavout (traditional).
 Torah Rededication. Special Torah reading,
 Deut. 14:22-16:17; Num. 28:26-31. Special
 prophetic reading, Habakkuk 3:1-19.
- June 2 Party

SHA'AR ZAHAV

THE CONGREGATION OF THE GOLDEN GATE Box 5640 San Francisco, Calif
Tel: 626-3131 94101

Reaching out to the Gay Community of the Bay Area